

## IsraelNow *Mishpacha* (Small Group) Leader Responsibilities and Attributes

*IsraelNow helps teens in 8th grade develop a life-long connection to Israel and the Jewish people. This immersive, holistic experience is designed explicitly for them with the intended outcome that teens return inspired to further their Jewish involvement in their community and to find their place in the Jewish world.*

*Mishpacha* leaders must have a passion for working with teens, for Israel, and for the Jewish people. A background in Jewish education, formal and/or experiential (teaching, be camp counselor, youth group advising), is a definite plus. Clergy is most welcome! We are not looking for “chaperones.” Rather we are looking for mentors and educators who can support teens from diverse backgrounds in a pluralistic setting.

While all staff members have responsibilities with the entire group, *mishpacha* (family in Hebrew) leaders have direct responsibility for 6-8 teens, typically housed in 2-3 hotel rooms. *Note: This is an active trip; mishpacha leaders must be able to walk an average of 16,000 steps per day at a 14-year-old pace. The trip includes extensive walking, hiking, a climb up Masada, and some early mornings and late nights all while adjusting to the overseas time change.*

### Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

#### 1) Supervision & Education

- Supervising and actively engaging with the teens in your *mishpacha* and on the trip.
- Recognizing and capitalizing on teachable moments.
- Providing safe space for teens to process, ask questions, and engage with their Israel experience, including, but not limited to daily reflections.

#### 2) Health, Safety & Logistics

- Ensuring timely arrival at meals, bus departures, participant or staff meetings, and all trip activities.
- Holding and dispensing teens’ medication at the appropriate times and in proper doses (in consort with trip physicians).
- Safekeeping teens’ spending money, passports, and other important documents.
- Communicating with bus captain, bus colleagues, and IsraelNow staff via WhatsApp when needed.
- Taking pictures of teens for IsraelNow use.
- Keeping teens safely in their rooms at night.
- Being a trusted and approachable adult for teens who are struggling with social/emotional concerns; working with trip mental health clinicians as appropriate to support teens.

#### 3) Professionalism

- Maintaining a positive attitude, promoting enthusiasm, and having a sense of humor.
- Participating in all activities, including Shabbat programming.
- Completing post-trip evaluation and assessing each teen in your *mishpacha*.
- Pre-trip calls to each family in your *mishpacha*.
- Attending pre-trip orientations and staff training.

***All tzevet (staff) will receive staff training before the trip and a handbook with detailed duties and instructions.***



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